

TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Congressman Kersten issued this morning following statement. Further

statements in Europe will be coordinated with missions:

QUOTE Since the majority of the people who have information on the matters under study by the Select Committee are located in Western Europe and since it will not be feasible to bring them to the United States, the Committee plans to leave for Europe to interview these people who are prepared to assist the Committee in exposing the methods by which the Soviets have taken over the captive nations and the treatment by the Red regimes of peoples now living under Soviet occupation. The Committee considers that its study would not be complete without the very valuable contribution which can be made by these refugees and escapees from Communist tyranny.

While the interviews will be conducted in private and the evidence given will not be disclosed prior to the Committee's return, such evidence will be made a part of the record for subsequent use by the Committee in exposing the methods by which the Soviet government has extended its jurisdiction over the captive peoples.

State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file would jeopardize the safety of any

Drafted by:

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Clearances:

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persons still behind the Iron Curtain, complete protection will be given by permanently preserving the anonymity of witnesses or persons about whom testimony is given. UNQUOTE

Subsequent CODEL KERSTEN messages may now be unclassified unless subject matter necessitates classification.

MURPHY

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